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Publisher Bestsellers

Texas A&M University Press

Column Editors: **Julia A. Gammon** (Univ. of Akron)

Kathleen Ketterman (University of North Carolina Press)



Texas A&M University Press
Bestsellers

Maureen Creamer, Publicity and Advertising Manager, at Texas A&M University Press, provided this interesting column. The list of the press' best kept secrets is headed by *Dan Stuart's Fistic Carnival* the highly unusual story of how governments and religious leaders of a century ago tried to stop the popular sport of boxing. Another "secret" is a memoir by the first African American woman commissioned as an officer in the U.S. armed forces, and the last book is a Q&A guide to safe drinking water written by a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Books dealing with Texas and the Southwest, women's studies and military history illustrate the strengths of the A&M Press and are reflected in this list of bestsellers. The granddaddy of bestsellers, in terms of numbers sold, is really the *Landscapes of Texas: Photographs from Texas Highways Magazine*, first published nearly 20 years ago; second runner up is *Women in the Field: America's Pioneering Women Naturalists* which Maureen chose to list.

Texas A&M University Press Best Kept Secrets

Dan Stuart's Fistic Carnival by Leo N. Miletich. ISBN 0-89096-614-1 cloth \$29.50. ISBN 0-89096-615-X paper \$14.95. 6x9. 264 pp. 22 b&w photos. 4 line drawings. Bib. Index.

"At the turn of the century, boxing was illegal in most states ... Fights were mostly held on the sly, but word of mouth made fighters into nationwide heroes even as preachers denounced the game from their pulpits. In 1895, Dan Stuart, a shrewd gambling man from Dallas, had the idea of staging a world championship boxing match. In an entertaining and lively style, Miletich examines the madcap story of the early impossible days of boxing promotion ... This is the story of Stuart's fight in the political ring against a wall of interference from politicians and evangelists all over the Southwest. Stuart's eventual success ... changed federal and state laws. Miletich brings together a wealth of material about popular culture and sports in the days of the expanding Western frontier. A work of serious

research, this is an engaging story of the infancy of a sport that from the start was one of devoted fans, horrified critics, and self-interested promoters." — *Publishers Weekly*, November 28, 1994

"... terrific reading ... The El Paso writer Leo Miletich has uncovered a tragicomic story of frontier politics, business, and American sport, and he tells it with appropriate exuberance." — *American Heritage*, Editor's Choice, February/March 1995

"In many ways the reality described by Miletich is a wilder west than that portrayed in Hollywood 'Oaters' ... For students of American culture *Dan Stuart's Fistic Carnival* is a must read." — *Canadian Journal of History of Sport*, 12/95

One Woman's Army, A Black Officer Remembers the WAC by Charity Adams Earley. 0-89096-375-4 cloth \$24.95. 0-89096-694-X paper \$15.95. 88-20181. 6x9. 232 pp. 49 b&w photos. Index.

"... a significant contribution to our understanding of the social changes brought about by the war." — *Journal of American History*.

Drinking Water, Refreshing Answers to All Your Questions by James M. Symons. ISBN 0-89096-646-X cloth \$24.50. ISBN 0-89096-659-1 paper \$10.95. LC 94-39842. 5 1/2x8 1/2. 136 pp. 38 b&w illus. Bib. Index.

"As fluidly as water, Symons flows from one topic to another. From water-treatment byproducts that are carcinogenic to the pros and cons of water softeners, Symons covers the waterfront in a simple Q&A format. His book is ultimately reassuring." — *Houston Chronicle*, May 12, 1995

"There are misconceptions about the safety of drinking water supplied to our homes. Dr. Symons' book provides a quick and easy source to answer those misconceptions." — *John L. Cleasby*, Ph.D., Iowa State University, *AEEP Web Resources* (online), September 28, 1995

Women in the Field, America's Pioneering Women Naturalists by Marcia Myers Bonta. ISBN 0-89096-467-X cloth \$29.50. ISBN 0-89096-489-0 paper \$14.95. LC 90-20729. 6x9. 320 pp. 30 b&w photos. Bib. Index. "... a charming and fascinating account of women naturalists that would be quite useful for readings of the history of women in science and the history of natural history." — *Journal of the History of Biology*, Fall 1993.

American Women Afeld, Writings by Pioneering Women Naturalists by Marcia Myers Bonta. ISBN 0-89096-633-8 cloth \$35.00. ISBN 0-89096-634-6 paper \$15.95. LC 94-3664. 6x9. 272 pp. 25 b&w photos. Bib. "... excerpts from the writings of 25 women field naturalists of the 19th and 20th centuries that emphasize how and why they did their fieldwork, their concern for conservation issues long before such issues became popular, and their ability to write entertainingly about their work and their love of nature... This book will appeal to natural scientists and backyard observers of nature as well as to all who enjoy the company of these courageous feminists." — *Library Journal*, March 15, 1995.

A Flying Tiger's Diary by Charles R. Bond and Terry H. Anderson. ISBN 0-89096-408-4 paper \$14.95. LC 83-40497. 6x9. 264 pp. 44 b&w photos. 2 maps. Bib. Index. "... documents ... the most colorful group of warriors in modern times." — Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, USAF (Ret.).

Mighty Stonewall by Frank E. Vandiver. ISBN 0-89096-384-3 cloth \$27.50. ISBN 0-89096-391-6 paper \$16.95. LC 88-9642. 6x9. 560 pp. 12 b&w photos. 16 maps. "This handsome reprint of Vandiver's work should once again bring 'Mighty Stonewall' to the forefront of Civil War history, where he so obviously belongs." — *America's Civil War*

Birds of Texas, A Field Guide by John H. Rappole and Gene W. Blacklock. ISBN 0-89096-544-7 cloth \$34.95. ISBN 0-89096-545-5 paper \$15.95. LC 93-8448. 6x9. 372 pp. 592 color photos. 10 line drawings. 619 maps. Bib. Index. "Most of the 619 birds treated ... are not restricted to Texas, though its Coastal Bend region claims some unique species ... A superior effort in every respect." — *Booklist*